

AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicants canceled claims 2, and 4-30, amended claim 31, and added new claims 32-34. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter, because they are supported by language in the specification, *inter alia*, on page 12, lines 12-17 and 23-28; page 13, lines 6-8; page 15, lines 20-22 and 29-30; page 16, lines 1-19 and 22-23; page 17, lines 4-17; page 18, lines 21-29; and page 19, lines 1-25.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim Listing

Claim 1-30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a line of paint products from a limited set of prepaints comprising:

providing a set of different but mutually compatible prepaints, sufficient to form at least one paint line, which set comprises:

- (1) at least one fluid ~~prepaint x, including at least one~~ white opacifying pigment prepaint,
- (2) at least one fluid extender pigment prepaint that has a pigment volume concentration of from about 40 to 100%, and a volume solids of from about 35 to about 65%~~y, including at least one extender pigment~~, and
- (3) at least one fluid ~~prepaint z, including at least one~~ polymeric binder prepaint;

receiving each of said fluid prepaints at one of several inputs of a fluid component mixing system;

mixing said fluid prepaints in said mixing system to prepare a first base paint,

wherein said prepaints are mixed according to a first prepaint ratio;

collecting said first base paint at an output of said mixing system;

mixing said fluid prepaints in said mixing system to prepare a second base paint;

wherein said prepaints are mixed according to a second prepaint ratio;
collecting said second base paint at an output of said mixing system;
wherein said first prepaint ratio and said second prepaint ratio are determined at a computer system; and
wherein said first prepaint ratio is different from said second prepaint ratio.

32. (new) The method of claim 31 wherein at least one of said first base paint and said second base paint further comprises an associative thickener.

33. (new) A method for manufacturing a line of paint products from a limited set of prepaints comprising:

providing a set of different but mutually compatible prepaints, sufficient to form at least one paint line, which set comprises:

- (1) at least one fluid white-opacifying pigment prepaint,
- (2) at least one fluid extender pigment prepaint that has a PVC of from about 40 to 100% and volume solids of from about 35 to about 65%,
- (3) at least one fluid polymeric binder prepaint, and

(4) at least one additional, different fluid prepaint selected from the group consisting of said fluid white-opacifying pigment prepaint, said fluid extender pigment prepaint, and said fluid polymeric binder prepaint;

receiving each of said fluid prepaints at one of several inputs of a fluid component mixing system;

mixing said fluid prepaints in said mixing system to prepare a first base paint,

wherein said prepaints are mixed according to a first prepaint ratio;

collecting said first base paint at an output of said mixing system;

mixing said fluid prepaints in said mixing system to prepare a second base paint;

wherein said prepaints are mixed according to a second prepaint ratio;

collecting said second base paint at an output of said mixing system;

wherein said first prepaint ratio and said second prepaint ratio are determined at a computer system; and

wherein said first prepaint ratio is different from said second prepaint ratio.

34. (new) The method of claim 33 wherein at least one of said first base paint and said second base paint further comprises an associative thickener.